

6491 A 6
S E R M O N

Rich. Preach'd at *Blinch*

T O P S H A M

On Thursday November the 29th, 1759.

Being the Day appointed for

A General Thanksgiving

For the late

S U C C E S S E S

O F

HIS MAJESTY'S ARMS by Sea & by Land,

And for the late

Very plentiful Harvest.

By **J. FORTESCUE, A.M.** R

EXON: Printed by **ANDREW BRICE**, and
sold by **B. THORN** and **E. SCORE**, Bookfellers,
in the *Fore-street*, 1760.

SEHMONT

Presented to

TOPAZIA M.

A General Thanksgiving

to



ESSAYS

His Majesty's Arms by Sir Isaac Newton

And for the late

Very plentiful Harvest.

BY J. THOMSON, A.M.

Printed by J. Sturges, in Strand, near the Theatre Royal, in the year 1750.



TO
Robert Nedham, Esq;

SIR,

THIS Sermon, preach'd on
the late Thanksgiving be-
fore a numerous Congregation at
Topsam, and at their earnest Re-
quest made publick, craves your
kind Patronage.--- The Author
hopes you will not impute too
much Presumption to him for shel-
tering himself under your Name,
without your Consent first obtain'd,
as he hath long had the Honour of
being acquainted with your humane
and

iv. DEDICATION.

and benevolent Way of Thinking,
and is well assured, from your
known Zeal to serve your Country,
and your Kindred Connexions with
that Great Commoner to whose wise
and vigorous Measures, as Prime
Minister, we, under Providence,
owe the Successes we have been
commemorating, that a Discourse of
this kind will not be altogether un-
acceptable from,

4. 00. 58

SIR,

Your most obedient

and most humble Servant,

J. Fortescue.

PSALM xviii. 47, 48, and Part of
the 49th Verses.

*The Lord liveth, and blessed be my
strong Helper: and praised be
the God of my Salvation. Even
the God that seeth that I be a-
venged: and subdueth the People
unto me. It is he that deliver-
eth me from my cruel Enemies,
and setteth me up above mine
Adversaries.*

SEE here and admire a Great King,
the most puissant Prince that ever
swayed the Jewish Sceptre, ascribing
all the Reputation he had acquired over his
own and the Enemies of his Kingdom to
one that was higher than himself. The
Royal Psalmist, whose Words we have read
to you, thought it no Diminution of his
Honour to make himself and his People
Debtors

Debtors to the God of the Armies of *Israel* for the Victory, whenever they prospered in the Course of their Wars, but rather, with great Judgment as well as Piety, concluded, that such grateful Acknowledgment of Divine Mercies would add Stability to their Happiness, and Dignity to his Crown.— In like Manner does our most religious and gracious Sovereign, not confiding in the Splendor of any thing that is great, nor captivated with the loudest Applauses of a redeemed People, but banishing every Thought of Self-Sufficiency from his Royal Breast, remit us to our strong Helper, the God of our Salvation, whom he enjoins us to bless and praise on this appointed Day of Thanksgiving: As it is He that seeth that we be avenged of and subdueth the People unto us: As it is He that delivereth us from our cruel Enemies, and setteth us up above our Adversaries.

'Tis true that God was by a peculiar Relation the God of the Children of *Israel*; that they were for many Years under his immediate Government and Tuition, and in Consequence of this their Theocracy were by a Series of Miracles supported and maintained

tained for Forty Years in the barren Wilderness, and were thence conducted by the Exertion of the same Almighty Power into the promised Land. When they wanted a secure Retreat from their pursuing Enemies, at their Approach the Sea saw that and fled. When they sought to take Possession of their Inheritance, *Jordan* was driven back. When in pitch'd Battle their Enemies were put to flight, Stones from Heaven fell upon their devoted Heads; and, to make the Victory compleat, which otherwise Night must have interrupted, the Sun made no set that Day, but stood still in *Gibeon*, and the Moon in the Valley of *Ajalon*.

These with many other miraculous Assurances were peculiar, I say, to the *Israelites* in the Infancy of their Political Existence, when God only might be said to reign over them. But when they lusted to have, like other Nations, a King from among their Brethren, and were indulged in this their Waywardness, they became no longer entitled to those extraordinary Testimonies of the Divine Favour, but were in this respect upon a Level with all other States and Kingdoms, who are governed and directed by the

the ordinary Influences of Providence. To them indeed he continued still the Lord of Hosts; but only so as to us or others, whom he will either crown with Success or chastise with Defeat, according to his good Pleasure: And this in so secret and invisible a Way, that though in fact it be of the Lord, it shall seem as though the Head and Arm of Man had accomplished it.

So that God may be as truly said to give us the Victory, and to deliver us from our Enemies, when Second Causes work their Effect, and Strength and Policy produce their usual Consequences, as though he had visibly interposed with a Miracle.— We are not therefore to imagine, that when the holy Prophet talks, as he does in this Psalm, of the Earth's shaking, the Foundations of the Heavens being removed, sending out his Arrows and scattering his Enemies, his Lightning and discomfiting them, he means the Course of Nature was altered on his Account, and the Elements themselves made to fight against his Adversaries:— Whatever God is said in these Passages, which are written in the Oriental figurative Style with so much Magnificence, was done by Human

man Means and Instruments, properly blessed,— by improving every Opportunity of acquiring and preserving a Superiority over the Enemy.

Hence we conclude that in all similar Cases we must exert our own natural Force and Strength; and, being thus Conquerors, ascribe every Piece of Success we meet with to God, the only Giver of Victory, whose Arm if it be not stretched out for us, as well as our own, in vain should we hope for Deliverance.— We should never forget in general that to him we are indebted for every prosperous Occurrence, and particularly now remember that our highest Gratitude is justly due to Him from whom all these Public Blessings we now commemorate come, or rather flow.

Perhaps there is no one Point in which Mankind are more generally agreed, than in condemning with one Consent the unsocial Sin of Ingratitude.— The Want of a due Sense of Favours past stops, 'tis too well known to prove, the Current of our Beneficence towards each other. Men do not care to repeat their good Offices to the Unthankful. And if this be the Case between

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Man

Man and Man, Ingratitude cannot be thought less odious from Man to God : Nay, it must be infinitely more so, as the mutual good Turns one Creature can do for another bear no sort of Proportion to the inexhaustible Bounty of the Creator. — The Deformity of Ingratitude may serve to shew the Beauty and the Amiability of its opposite Virtue ;— how well it becometh the Just, the Wise, and the Good, to be thankful.

8 But how shall we raise our Gratitude to a proper Height? What Sacrifice of Praise and Thanksgiving can we offer that will come up in any Degree to the Multitude and Magnitude of the Divine Benefits and Blessings whereof we now rejoice? Our utmost Efforts will be insufficient; but these we should exert, and accordingly examine each Mercy carefully and distinctly, in order the better to understand the Nature of the Obligation. For if we are ignorant of what we owe to Heaven, or slightly pass it over, our Insensibility must needs render the Service of the Day imperfect. For which reason, I count it my Duty to exhort you to recollect in your grateful Breasts, and thankfully attend to, each particular Blessing which,

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as Protestants and *Britons*, we have received since the Commencement of the War, or, if you please, rather since the Beginning of the Year Seventeen Hundred Fifty Nine; a Year never to be forgotten by the People of this Land, till Years shall be no more.— Glad would the Enemy be could they expunge it from their Chronicle, that they might hide their Infamy and Disgrace from the Generations to come.

For our Parts, we have all the Reason in the World to bless and praise our Strong Helper, the God of our Salvation, when we remember (and we cannot well forget so recent a Fact) to what a Depth of Despair the unpromising Beginning of the War had almost reduced the whole Nation. The Loss,--I had almost said the providential Loss, of *Minorca*, (for to that perhaps, under God, we owe those repeated Successes which have crown'd our Warlike Labours) together with the Defeat of our Forces on the *Ohio*, struck such a universal Damp on the Spirits of our Countrymen, that even *Britons*, ever before known to be extremely fruitful in Resources, as well as daring amidst the greatest Dangers -- (Let it never more be mentioned!)--

mistrusted their own Abilities to protect
 their Altars and their Firesides, and sought
 for Security in the puiny Aid of a Foreign
 imported Army. Hence there were great
 Searchings of Heart in every Patriot Breast.
It was visible that weak Heads and faint
Hearts had brought the Publick Weal into
imminent Danger ; that our Reputation
abroad sunk with our Spirits at home ; and
 that it was more than probable that our
 provoked Enemy, taking the Advantage of
 our thus visible Dismay, would come and
 take away both our Place and Nation.

Nothing less than the Sun of Righteousness
 arising with Healing in his Wings could dis-
 pel this dark and dismal Cloud which over-
 cast this threatened Land of ours. And to
 Him, no doubt, were offer'd up many pious
 Prayers, that he would be pleased to protect
 and defend this precious Vine of his, this
 Church and People, that the wild Boar of
 the Wood might not root it up, nor any
 Beast of the Field devour it. In gracious
 Condescension to which we are met now,
 with joyful Lips, and the sincerest Gratitude
 of Heart, I hope, to acknowledge, that he
 hath laid Help upon our King, who was
 Mighty

Mighty through his Blessing, and hath wrought for us great Redemption from our Fears. Our vaunting Enemies, that threatened to commence Hostilities on our Sea-Coasts, have felt the Weight of our Arms on their own, and by sensible Experience been taught, that they have more to fear from Us than we from Them.

If we look towards the Continent, we shall there see such a glorious Alteration in the Face of our Affairs, as must needs extort this Confession from us, *This is the Lord's doing, and it is marvellous in our Eyes.* How did we, with great Reason, but lately bewail the hard Lot and distress'd Condition of the poor *Hanoverians* and *Hessians*, whose Country was as savagely over-run as unjustly invaded by the cruel Enemy? But they are now reinstated in a quiet and peaceable Possession of their own, Thanks be to the Lord, who appeared for them in the ever-memorable Battle fought in the Plains of *Minden*, where He who can save by a Few as well as by a Multitude arose, and by a few *British* Battalions, each Man an Hero! broke and dispers'd the proud insulting Foe, who for Number and Voraciousness were
like

like the Locusts that filled and devoured the Land.

Hence if we turn our Eyes, and view our good Ally, the Champion of the Protestant Cause in that Part of the World, the heroick King of *Prussia*, struggling, not only with a peculiar Firmness of Mind, but even with unexpected Success, against that unnatural, but powerful, Confederacy of Three of the greatest Monarchies of *Europe* against him, this will administer fresh Matter of Thanksgiving. The Almighty Protector of religious States and Princes, professing his eternal Truth, hath hitherto wonderfully covered his and the Head of his illustrious Brother Prince *Ferdinand* in the Day of Battle; and whilst he continues still to cover them, we will not fear nor doubt but that, by their Means, the Reformed Churches abroad will soon have Rest from all their Enemies.

But, what more nearly concerns Us as *Englishmen*, we have the highest Reason to bless God, who hath not denied Us the Request of our Lips, but hath granted the King and Father of this People so long a Life as to see his Desire upon his Enemies. Our Happiness must surely stand strongly connected
with

with his precious Life, whose Religion is truly Protestant, and whose natural Affection extendeth to his Subjects as to his Children. Long, therefore, may the King rejoice in thy Strength, O Lord! Long may he be exceeding glad of thy Salvation!

And, whilst we thus pay our grateful Tribute to the Throne, let us not forget, at the same Time, that to the same Divine Providence we are indebted for that wise and virtuous Ministry, those brave Commanders of our Fleets and Armies, those intrepid Soldiers and Seamen, that are not to be parallell'd among any of the neighbouring Nations, whose Exploits have distinguish'd the Times wherein we live, and who by their sage Counsels and heroick Atchievements have restored this lovely Island to its pristine Glory, and rendred it (shall I say?) the Praise, the Terror, or the Envy, of the whole Earth.

If at any Time the House of *Israel* groan'd under the Oppression of any Foreign Yoke, and they cried unto the Lord in their Trouble, he delivered them out of their Distress. And this he did by raising up for them Judges and Deliverers, Men on whom
he

he put his Spirit to qualify them for the important Task of saving his chosen People. Now, as he hath promised to be with his Church even to the End of the World, why may we not suppose the Divine Procedure to be the same now as heretofore? It is neither impious nor absurd to imagine, that in the Infancy of our Reformed Religion, when Popery on every Side threatened its immediate Dissolution, that an *Elizabeth* and a *Walsingham* should be raised up by Heaven to foster and protect it. So, now, in its maturer Age, when Inactivity and Irresolution, (to say no worse) had brought us to the Brink of Despair, and we were in the utmost Pain for our *Sion*, our numerous Enemies being so near at hand, and ready to swallow us up, why should it be thought incredible, that God should exalt One, chosen among the People, a Man whose Head and Heart seem both to be framed for that High Employment, the one clear and cool, the other warm and honest, to the last Degree; why should it be thought strange, I say, that God should design in his secret Councils to save the Church and State of *England*, under his Vicegerent *George*, by the Hands and
through

through the extraordinary Abilities of this Great Commoner?

Happy, thrice happy, *Britons!* notwithstanding all your Provocations, still the Favourites of Heaven! Under such a Prince, assisted by such a peerless Minister, at a Time when all Party Rage subsides, and the People all, with regard to Politicks (and wou'd they were so too in Matters of Religion!) are of one Heart and one Mind, who is he that can harm you, if ye be Followers of that which is good? The King may felicitate himself, that now in the Decline of Life, when it must be truly laborious for him to go in and out before a great People, and the Weight of Empire must sit excessively heavy on his aged Shoulders, that he hath found a Man after his own Heart, whose great Capacities and inflexible Integrity in the Administration, must bid Discord cease, & Harmony prevail, among us; who, by connecting the Interest of the People with that of their Prince, must make him an absolute Monarch of our Hearts and Purses. And every Subject hath this Consolation to think, that, whatever Storms and Tempests hard drive the Ship of the State, we
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have at present (And long may he continue!) the most excellent Pilot at the Helm, to bring her, under God, into her Haven of Rest and Security.

When the Lord turned the Captivity of *Sion*, then were we like unto them that dream, said the Psalmist. In like Manner, when the Almighty Disposer of all Events began to declare in our Favour, the Rapidity of the Success wherewith our well-planned Enterprizes were crowned, was so astonishing, that we could hardly believe what we heard with our Ears. Whithersoever we turned our Arms we prospered. All the four several Parts of the known World have within the Compass of two revolving Years been Witnesses to the Martial Bravery of the *British* Strength, properly animated and conducted: Nay, perhaps, we have done more in that Time toward reducing the exorbitant Power of the ambitious House of *Bourbon*, than was done in the late *Queen Anne's* Time, of glorious Memory, after so many successful though bloody Campaigns. In short, we have not wanted Matter of Triumph either by Sea or by Land. The Navy of our Enemy, by frequent Captures, hath been

been more than half ruined, and their Trade, which supplied them with the Sinews of War, hath received a total Overthrow.

Particularly successful have we been in *North America*, the principal Object of the War; where, from the Reduction of *Louisbourg*, we have gone on conquering and to conquer, till *Quebec* itself, the Metropolis of their Northern World, hath submitted likewise to our victorious Arms.— A glorious Acquisition this, notwithstanding it was dearly purchased by the Loss of a General, who, tho' young in Command, had already displayed the rarest Talents in Military Knowledge and Practice; who was an Honour and Ornament to his Country; whose real Worth the King himself bore Testimony to, by shedding Tears at the sad Tidings of his Death; and whose Memory shall be sweet as long as History or pompous Monument shall record the Fame of *British* Heroes.

The Importance of *Quebec's* being added to our Conquests is hence apparent, in that we shall from this Event probably soon become Masters of all *Canada*, and have it in our Power to drive far thence those common

Disturbers of the New as well as the Old World, and by that Means perpetuate Peace and Security to our neighbouring Colonies; who have not, I hope, forgot to thank God, who hath been so signally merciful to them, in redeeming them from the Hand of their cruel — scalping — Enemies.

May this Extension of the *English* Empire in the *Indian* Land be attended with this blessed Effect: May it make us ardently desirous to extend with ours the Kingdom of our Saviour Christ; — to communicate to the poor unenlightened Natives, who have quietly yielded up Possession of their Country to us, the comfortable News of a Saviour that taketh away the Sins of the World, and who have a Right, for their Worldly, to expect to reap of our Spiritual Things; — and to others, whom the *French*, for worldly Ends, have but imperfectly taught the Christian Mysteries, impart the whole Truth as it is in *Jesus*.

Since, then, the Lord of Hosts is thus with us, whom shall we fear? Since the God of *Jacob* is our Refuge, of whom shall we be afraid? The Experience of former and late Deliverances must needs be sure Ground whereon

whereon to build our firmest Confidence in Aid Omnipotent.— He who hath delivered us from so great Dangers, and doth deliver us, in Him we may securely trust that He will still continue to deliver us.

What then! though we know the Rage and the Fury that our incensed Enemies cherish in their Hearts against us; though they encompass us with Words of Hatred, and with their slanderous Tongues go thro' the World, threatening with an invincible Armada to bring home to our Doors the Scourge of War, to convert our Land, which is as the Garden of Eden, into a barren Wilderness, & dye our silver Streams with *English* Blood; — yet are they but vain Words: — The Lord hath not sent them, but he will put his Hook into their Nose, and glad shall they be to return by the Way that they came. — It is scarce imaginable, indeed, that considering their many late Defeats and Disappointments, and the unwearyed Vigilance of our wide-spreading Fleet, which duly observes their Motions, that they will quit the Shelter of their own Ports, and with their Flat-bottomed unwieldy Boats court the Perils of the Winter Sea.

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But should they be so hardy as to venture forth, the last Efforts of their expiring Cause, it may, humbly, under Providence, be expected, that they will soon be arrested in the midst of their mad Career; that the Spirit of *Drake* and *Rawleigh* is still resident in the Hearts of our stout Sea Commanders, who will, like them, worthily transmit their Names to Posterity, by destroying, or dispersing at least, this long-preparing boasted Armament, and with it all our Fears of *French* Invasion.

But supposing, — after all, — that every Circumstance should favour so as to bring their Fleet, unmolested by ours, to the Places of their Destination, and they should display their hostile Banners on our firm Land; — yet will we not be cast down, nor be removed from our steadfast Hope. The Battle is the Lord's; and on Him we will securely rely that he will go forth with our chosen Bands (our choice Militia), cause Victory to perch on the Heads of our well-appointed Generals, and deliver those bold Invaders (who will, when discomfited, have no Place of Safety to flee unto) into our Hands.

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Let not, therefore, any gloomy Thought on this Occasion arise in any Heart to mar the joyful Solemnity of this Day; but let past animate our Expectations of future Blessings. Though we are now beating our Plowshares into Swords, and our Pruning-hooks into Spears, very properly providing for our Defence, should we be attack'd, yet if our Sins do not separate between God and Us, the Time cannot be far off when these brandished Instruments of War shall revert to their former peaceable State, and be again more useful Implements of Husbandry.

God be thanked that hitherto our Country hath been preserved from being the Seat of War, which is but another Name for a Scene of Desolation and Violence, Rapine and Murder. We have only heard with our Ears, and been told; but never sensibly felt, its Horrors; we have only yet been threatened and alarmed with the Approach of an Enemy, but have not seen him standing in our Gates.— These are great Mercies, and demand our solemn Praises. But, great as they are, they are vastly exceeded and outdone by a speedy, honourable, and lasting Peace,

Peace, which we should all most devoutly pray for, when every one may sit down quietly, and enjoy securely the Fruits of his Labour under his own Vine, and under his own Fig-tree.

'Tis Time now to draw toward a Conclusion. But, before we quit this pleasing Subject, it must be observed, that, though we were not commanded by Royal Proclamation, we should think ourselves in all Duty bound to express our Gratitude to the same Beneficent Being, who, by giving us the late very plentiful Harvest, hath filled our Hearts with Food and Gladness. This is indeed a Mercy we have often before experienced. Fruitful Seasons, and large Crops of Corn, are no uncommon Things in this Land, blessed with the Dew of Heaven, where both Hill and Vale do usually and amply reward the Toil of the Husbandman, by yielding a very great Increase. — But, then, it must be consider'd at the same Time, that the Value of a Benefit is not lessened, but rather enhanced, by being repeated. And as we are taught to pray to Heaven Day by Day for our daily Bread, thence only it is to be expected. In vain would the Farmer be-
flow

flow his Labour and Manure on his Plow-lands, did not the Clouds drop Fatness on them when sown; and empty would be his Barns, were the Windows of Heaven to be opened, and the Rains continually descend upon his Corn when he putteth in the Sickle.

'Tis, therefore, owing to the abundant Goodness of the Lord, who giveth the former and the latter Rain, that the Year is ever crowned with Plenty. Now, had he at this Time with-held his Mercy from us, and cut off the Staff of our Bread, how miserable had our Case then been!— Increase of Mouths, and Decrease of Bread, would have brought us near unto Famine; and that, added to the Plague of War, would have been a Burthen perhaps too heavy for us to bear. But (Thanks be to Him whose Compassions fail not!) we have Corn in the greatest Plenty:— Whilst our Enemies lack, and suffer Hunger, we abound, and have enough to spare.— We ought not indeed to be high-minded, but fear; and it is cruel to insult a vanquish'd Enemy. But let it not be thought impious or barbarous to say, (as with Reverence it is spoken) that, thro' the tender Mercies of God towards us, the

Affairs of *France* are now in so melancholy a Plight, that she must soon be reduced to this hard Dilemma, of begging either Bread or Peace at our Hands.

And now, then, how can we be sufficiently thankful for those inestimable Benefits conferred upon us in the Prosecution of this critical War, wherein both our Civil and Religious Liberties, every Thing that can be near and dear to us, were at Stake? Had we the eloquent Tongues of Angels we could not shew forth all his Praise, who hath thus hitherto delivered our Souls from Death, our Eyes from Tears, and our Feet from falling.— Whoso wisely considereth these Things, and understandeth the Loving-kindness of the Lord, will treasure up in his Heart these numerous Obligations to Gratitude, and Joy in the God of his Salvation: He will in private Meditation attentively scan and estimate the Worth and Importance of each particular Mercy received, and from the Unworthiness of the Receivers raise its Value to the highest Pitch. He will muse on these Things till a celestial Fire kindles in his Heart, and then at length he will speak with his Tongue, and bless there-
with

with our God, who helpeth us, and poureth out his Benefits upon us.

To our Praises and Thanksgivings we should not forget to annex our sincerest Vows, & firmest Resolutions, to walk henceforward in Newness of Life; as becometh those that are redeemed of the Lord. For be assured that unless we do this in good Earnest, we can never preserve the Interest we seem to have at present in the Court of Heaven. The Lord loveth Righteousness, his Countenance will behold only the Thing that is just. Unholiness, as well as Unthankfulness, will render every Expectation of future Favours vain; and therefore if we suffer it to continue among us, it is not impossible, nor improbable, that quite a different Turn may be yet given to our Affairs; that our present Joy may be soon turned into Heaviness, and they that hate us, though now brought very low, may yet be Lords over us, and rule us with a Rod of Iron.

But this I trust in God will not be our Case, especially as we may hope for better Things from the uncommon Spirit of Patriotism which now happily prevails; and which must teach us that we cannot better

serve our Country than by serving the King of Heaven, and be thence induced to put away the Evil of our Doings, to cease to do Evil, and learn to do well. If thus we remove all Iniquity far from us, and by cleaving unto God recommend ourselves to his Divine Approbation, then no doubt He will cleave unto us, and finish the good Work he hath begun for us. Then may we hope that he will appear again for us in Battle, scatter our Enemies that delight in War, and ever crown our honest Endeavours with Success.— Only let us fear God, and, considering what great Things he hath done for us, serve him in Sincerity and Truth; and then, without all peradventure, He will continue to set us high among the Nations around us, and make them all pay cheerful Homage to our Flag. He will prolong the Life of our Great King, and full entrust the Reins of Government with his most accomplished Minister. He will revive and confirm in every Breast the Love of his Country, and strengthen every Hand that shall unsheath the Sword in its Defence. In short, he will encamp around our Armies by Land, putting the Dread of them on every Opponent;

gent; and by Sea, controuling the Fury of the Winds, securely conduct our Royal Navy to further Conquests and Acquisitions. Hence *Englishmen* shall, in all the Martial World, be deemed Men of Renown; and Foreigners, reverling their Judgments, shall say of us, — Happy are the People that are in such a Case. Yea, blessed are the People who have the Lord for their God.

If any Thing more needs be added, it is, that we should not forget, in order to compleat the Solemnity of this Day, to do Good and communicate to the Poor, seeing with such Sacrifices God is well pleased. As our Father which is in Heaven hath been thus merciful to Us, We who have this World's Goods, and see our Brethren have Need, should not shut up our Compassion from them, lest we be justly hereafter upbraided; *Thou wicked Servant, shouldst not thou have had Compassion on thy Fellow Servant, even as I had Pity on thee?* — If we deem it right to cloath our naked Enemy*, (and no doubt it is a most exalted Piece of Charity) it must be surely thought a Duty of equal Obligation

* A Collection for cloathing the *French* Prisoners was made just before the preaching of this Sermon.

at least to relieve the Wants of those, who, by being born in the same Country, and bred in the same Religion with ourselves, demand, when in Necessity, our principal Attention.--- As we have with great Liberality done the one, I hope we shall not leave the other undone.

To conclude: --- May the Lord Jehovah accept the Prayers and Praises, the Alms and Oblations, that are this Day offered up to him, and be our everlasting Strength! --- Yet greater Prosperity may he give to his Anointed, our august Sovereign, and with his favourable Kindness evermore defend him and his Royal House as with a Shield! Still may he continue to go forth with our Fleets and Armies, until our Adversaries, convinced at length that God of a Truth is with us, submit to equitable Terms of Peace! --- Which that they may soon do, and thereby avoid the Effusion of more Christian Blood, God of his infinite Mercy grant, through Jesus Christ our Lord; to whom, with the Holy Ghost, be rendered all Laud and Honour, Love, Service, and Thanksgiving, now and ever!

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